

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A latex turbidimetric immunoassay method for measuring lipoprotein(a) having several phenotypes, comprising:

(a) mixing (i) a biological sample, (ii) latex particles, which are coated with an anti-lipoprotein(a) antibody antibodies, and (iii) ~~a basic amino acid arginine~~ to produce a mixture, wherein the amount of antibody added is greater than or equal to said antibodies and said basic amino acid are present in said mixture in an amount of 0.15 mg/ml in a reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction or greater and 12% or greater, respectively; and

(b) detecting the degree of agglutination of said particles observing absorbance or light scattering variation in said mixture to detect degree of agglutination of said particles,

~~whereby said variation is a function independent of lipoprotein(a) phenotype.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the amount of the antibody added is greater than or equal to 0.16 mg/mL in a reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction.

26.-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 24, wherein the amount of arginine the basic amino acid added is less than or equal to from 15% by weight to 17% by weight inclusive in the reaction solution at the time of the antigen-antibody reaction.

29.-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.